

Amendment and Response
Applicant: William B. Dawson
Serial No.: 10/603,069

Attorney Docket: KEY1027US

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 4 and 7 as follows.

1. (Original) A wall block connection system comprising:

a plurality of wall blocks, each wall block having a top surface, a bottom surface opposed to the top surface, first and second opposing side surfaces, a front face, and a rear face, the front and rear faces, top and bottom surfaces and side surfaces defining a block body, the block body including a head portion including the front face, a rear portion including the rear face, and first and second neck portions defining a core between the head and rear portions adjacent the rear portion, the head portion having at least one cavity defining a first web portion between the cavity and the first side surface and a second web portion between the cavity and the second side surface; and

a plurality of channel shaped connectors, each connector having first and second side segments connected by a bridge segment, the bridge segment having a pin element extending therefrom and being sized such that during construction of a wall, the first and second side segments straddle a web portion of the wall block.

2. (Original) The connection system of claim 1 wherein each wall block further comprises a partition dividing the cavity into first and second cavities.

3. (Original) The connection system of claim 1 wherein the pin element defines a longitudinal axis and wherein a cross-section through the pin element perpendicular to the longitudinal axis is circular.

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4. (Currently amended) A retaining wall having at least a first lower course of blocks and a second upper course of blocks, the retaining wall comprising:

a plurality of wall blocks, each wall block having a top surface, a bottom surface opposed to the top surface, first and second opposing side surfaces, a front face, and a rear face, the front and rear faces, top and bottom surfaces and side surfaces defining a block body, the block body including a head portion including the front face, a rear portion including the rear face, and first and second neck portions defining a core between the head and rear portions adjacent the rear portion, the head portion having at least one cavity defining a first web portion between the cavity and the first side surface and a second web portion between the cavity and the second side surface; and

a plurality of channel shaped connectors, each connector having first and second side segments connected by a bridge segment, the bridge segment having a pin element extending therefrom and being sized such that the first and second side segments straddle a web portion of a wall block in the lower course of wall blocks when the bridge segment is accommodated within ~~the~~ a recessed region of the web portion so that the pin element extends upwardly into a cavity of a wall block in the upper course to thereby stabilize the relative positions of the wall blocks in the upper and lower courses.

5. (Original) The retaining wall of claim 4 wherein each wall block further comprises a partition dividing the cavity into first and second cavities.

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6. (Original) The retaining wall of claim 4 wherein the pin element defines a longitudinal axis and wherein a cross-section through the pin element perpendicular to the longitudinal axis is circular.

7. (Currently amended) A method of making a retaining wall having at least a first lower course of wall blocks and a second upper course of wall blocks comprising:

a plurality of wall blocks, each wall block having a top surface, a bottom surface opposed to the top surface, first and second opposing side surfaces, a front face, and a rear face, the front and rear faces, top and bottom surfaces and side surfaces defining a block body, the block body including a head portion including the front face, a rear portion including the rear face, and first and second neck portions defining a core between the head and rear portions adjacent the rear portion, the head portion having at least one cavity defining a first web portion between the cavity and the first side surface and a second web portion between the cavity and the second side surface;

providing a plurality of channel shaped connectors, each connector having first and second side segments connected by a bridge segment, the bridge segment having a pin element extending therefrom;

placing the wall blocks to form the first lower course of wall blocks;

positioning the connectors on the wall blocks in the first course such that the first and second side segments of each connector straddle the first and second web portions and the bridge portion is accommodated within the a recessed region of the first and second web portions and the pin element extends upwardly; and

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placing the wall blocks over the first course of wall blocks to form the second course of wall blocks, the second course of wall blocks being positioned such that the cavity of each wall block in the second course of wall blocks receives an upwardly extending pin element.